

March 18, 2016

Vanessa McGee, Waterbury, CT

Good morning Senator Coleman, Representative Tong and members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Vanessa McGee and I am a registered voter in the city of Waterbury. I am here to testify on H.B. No. 5531 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS OR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.

I do not think that an individual should be mandated to take medication because in the past I had been given forced to take medication and had terrible side effects. It took a long time to find the right medication and cost the taxpayers a lot of money because I was in the hospital a long time. I was forced to take the medication and almost got hit by a car while on this medication and walked right in front of cars while on this heavy dose of medication. Then I was hospitalized again. This was 30 years ago.

Now I have community supports such as supportive housing, employment services and the Independence Center and am in treatment and recovery. I am able to make my own decisions and choices, advocate for myself and my peers, and have been out of the hospital for over 8 years.

Please do not mandate involuntary outpatient treatment, and consider the all of the people sitting here and consider me.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Vanessa McGee

Waterbury, CT